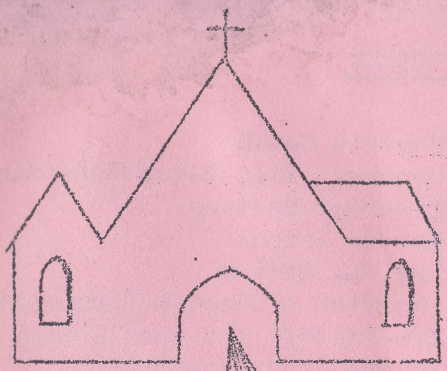
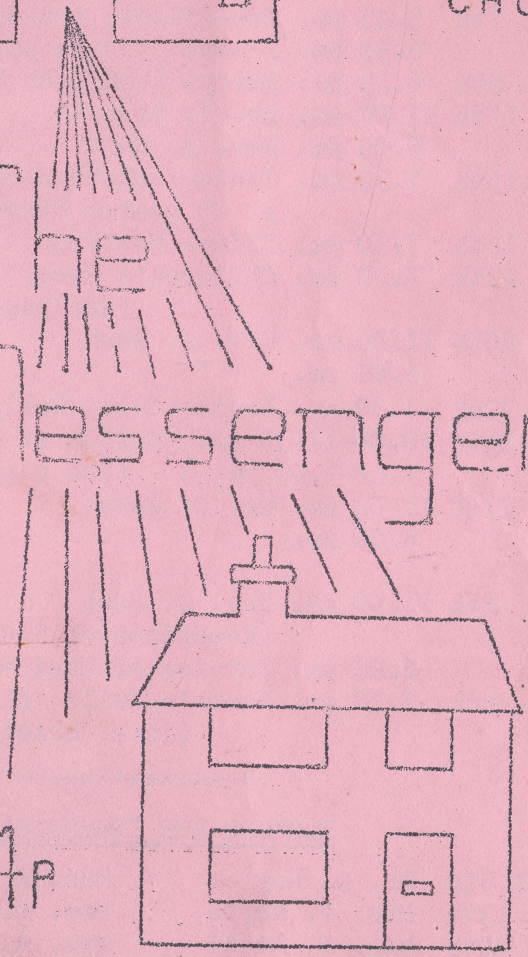
Ap 1975

THE
UNITED
REFORMED
CHURCH



The Messenger



Price 4p

St. Stephen's,
Milnrow & Littleborough

MILNROW DIARY

April			
Tues.	1st	7.30 pm.	Women's Guild Speaker: Miss Paton-Roberson
Fri.	4th		District Meeting
Sun.	6th	11.00 am.	Mr. W. Prince
		6.00 pm.	Mrs. E. Gillon (Service of Word & Sacrament)
Mon.	7th	5.45 pm.	Pre-Pilots) and each Monday
		6.30 pm.	Pilots) as announced.
Tues.	8th	6.15 pm.	Envoys (and each Tuesday)
Sun.	13th	11.00 am.	Mr. A. Roberts
		6.00 pm.	Rev. A. Nash
Tues.	15th	7.30 pm.	Junior Church Staff Meeting at 25 Heaton Street.
Wed.	16th	7.30 pm.	Elders Meeting
Sat.	19th	7.30 pm.	Children's Fancy Dress & Social (See page 8)
Sun.	20th	11.00 am.	Rev. A. Nash
		6.00 pm.	"
Tues.	22nd	7.30 pm.	Ladies Guild Rally
Thur.	24th	10.00-11.30 am.	Coffee at 25 Heaton St.
		7.00-9.00 pm.	(See page 9)
Sun.	27th	11.00 am.	Mr. D. Jones
		6.00 pm.	
May			
Sun.	4th	11.00 am.	Rev. A. Nash (Reception of C.W.M. Boxes)
		6.00 pm.	Service of Word & Sacrament
Tues.	6th	7.30 pm.	Women's Guild: Miss McQueen (from Christian Aid)

****

FLOWERS FOR COMMUNION TABLE

April	6th	Mr. K. Hey	Mrs. E. Galvin
	13th	Mrs. P. Royle	Mrs. C. Clough
	20th	Mrs. B. Stott	Mrs. A. Prestwich
	27th	Mrs. C. Rothwell	Mrs. A. Lynch
May	4th	Mrs. E. Gowdridge	

LITTLEBOROUGH DIARY

April

Wed. 2nd 6.45 pm. Pilots
Fri. 4th 7.30 pm. Film Evening: "ROAD TO EMMAEUS"
Sun. 6th 10.30 am. Mr. J. Lord
Mon. 7th House to House collection fortnight starts for National Childrens Home.
Tues. 8th 8.00 pm. Fashion Party (Busy Bees) 10p
Well known manufacurer's seconds.
Something for every member of the family.
Sun. 13th 10.30 am. Rev. A. Nash
Tues. 15th 7.30 pm. Womens Guild:
Led by Younger Guilders.
Wed. 16th 6.45 pm. Pilots
Thur. 17th Reception of Jumble.
7.30 pm. Mens Fellowship
Fri. 18th 7.00 pm. CWM & Junior Church
JUMBLE SALE...3p.
Sun. 20th 10.30 am. Mrs. Nash
Mon. 21st Second week of House to House Collection
Wed. 23rd 6.45 pm. Pilots
Sun. 27th JUNIOR CHURCH ANNIVERSARY
10.30 am. Rev. A. Nash
6.00 pm. "
Tues. 29th 7.30 pm. Junior Church Staff Meeting
Wed. 30th 6.45 pm. Pilots

May

Sun. 4th 10.30 am. Mr. J. Lord

++++++++++++++++

FLOWERS FOR COMMUNION TABLE

April	6th	Mrs. Wade
	13th	Mrs. Priestley
	20th	Mrs. Grindrod
	27th	Mrs. E. Jackson
May	4th	Mrs. R. Holt

COLLECTIONS

	Cash	Envelopes
Feb. 2nd	2.26	11.85
9th	3.96	10.60
16th	1.42	10.20
23rd	4.95½	12.79½

From the Manse

April 1975

My dear friends,

I wonder how many people today ever think about Heaven, and if they do, how do they think of it? A few hundred years ago the population was both amused and educated with plays depicting life here and life here-after, with the good enjoying permanent happiness and bliss upstairs in Heaven, and the bad enduring the equally permanent efforts of the tormentors down below in Hell. Whether we went up or down was determined by the kind of life we lived here.

To understand what Heaven is, or Hell for that matter, it is necessary to understand what is meant by relationships. All life consists of relationships - of income to expenditure, of country to country, of person to person. Heaven is likewise. It is a relationship of man with God (and consequently also of man with man). This is why Heaven has no geographical location. It is neither "up there" nor "over there". Jesus says, "the Kingdom of Heaven is in the midst of you", or "within you". It is wherever you are, if you are in a right relationship with God.

Is it then simply a "good feeling"? When all the world is bright and sunny and when everything is going our way and we feel good. Is that it? Obviously, it is more than this, for a right relationship with God endures and is strengthened by the rough circumstances of life when "good feelings have made themselves very scarce indeed. It is more also when we are challenged to take the hard way over some matter simply because we know this is God's way. To live in this kingdom of Heaven is, therefore, a great deal more than just a "good feeling."

Isn't it right that a good many people are looking to go to Heaven when they die? Yes, lots

of them have this thought and, of course, are quite right to have such a hope so long as they know that Heaven is here and now also, and that the right relationship with God begins in this world through God's own grace to us in Christ, and it continues into the next world.

To be in Heaven then is to be "at-one" with God. Christ came to make this possible for us all, for who is in himself worthy of such things as these?

May God bless you all.

Your sincere friend,

ALFRED NASH

THOUGHT:

"Therefore, since we are justified by faith we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ. Through Him we have obtained access to this grace in which we stand and we rejoice in our hope of sharing the glory of God".

Letter to the Romans Chap.5, verse 1.

++

OBITUARY

Mrs. ANNIE BARKER, aged 75, of 5 New Rd., Dearnley, Littleborough, passed away at the home of her daughter on March 16th. She had been in poor health for some time, but never complained. She was always pleased to see the Church's sick visitors and liked to hear of the doings at Victoria Street. She was a former Primary teacher, a Womens Guild and Church Member. We offer our sympathy to Mr. Wright Barker, Joan and all the family. Cremation was at Eccles on March 19th. Donations in lieu of flowers were forwarded to Rochdale & District Blind Welfare Society, Merefield Street, Rochdale.

BAPTISM

On Sunday, 16th March at St. Stephen's:

CLAIRE LOUISE SHACKLETON, daughter of Mr. & Mrs.E Shackleton of Whitworth Road, Rochdale.
(grand-daughter of Mr. Mrs. Starkie).

"May God bless this little one"

++

ST. STEPHEN'S ROCKET

Everything is going up, and so we hope also to see the S.S.R. launched shortly. Countdown to Ignition stands at the present time at 8. If you have not already joinded the scheme to "speed the Rocket" then you may join at any time. The first hundred days will bring us to Church Anniversary - June 8th when penny-a-day savings will be received as a special gift.

*

PETRUS COMMUNITY THANKYOU

The appeal for blankets for the night shelter work of Petrus was well supported by both our Milnrow and Littleborough Churches. Thankyou for your help.

*

WOMEN'S WORLD DAY OF PRAYER

Both afternoon and evening services were well supported at St. Stephen's where folk from various Christian denominations (and none) joined the world-wide prayer fellowship. Mrs. Henderson of Newhey St. Thomas's was the evening speaker.

Littleborough friends joined with a large congregation at St. Barnabas, Shore, when our Minister was the speaker.

*

PILOT'S INVITATION NIGHT

This proved to be very successful and was greatly appreciated by the number of people who came along. Well done, Pilots! - and thankyou to all who were responsible for arrangements and refreshments.

PROVINCIAL SYNOD

The Synod of the North West Province of the U.R.C. was held at Preson. Our Moderator, the Rev. D. Stewart asked that as much information as possible be passed on, so here goes:

It was a very lively occasion with much use made of Visual Aids. The Church and Society Dept., dealt with Strategic Plans for the North West and revealed that this plan affects us all to a greater or less degree. Health, footpaths, pollution, dentistry, housing, libraries, culture, welfare, open spaces, etc., being but a few of the matters covered. A booklet N.W. 2000 will be available shortly and churches are asked to arrange discussion of any relevant portions.

The Stockport group of seven churches illustrated aspects of a two-month Bible project they had been engaged upon. Various groups had studied the Psalms, the Sermon on the Mount etc., and had produced seven letters to seven churches of today.

The new Partners in Learning course received publicity and is to be advocated again at the District Meeting at Audenshaw on the 4th April.

The plight of many millions of starving people was again brought to our notice by the Foodshare Manifesto. Churches are asked to lobby Government ministers and also to give help themselves. In this context a Spartan Supper will be held at St. Stephen's on the 28th May...Admission 10p. Proceeds to Christian Aid.

More about this at a later date!

****

GUESS WHAT!

Our YOUNG MUMS Group will not meet on April 2nd but we look forward to meeting you again on Wednesday 9th April when Mrs. Janice Iveson will open the proceedings. "Guess Who" is the programme for the afternoon, so bring along any pictures of yourself or children- or anybody-and have a good guessing time.

Other events in April will be:

April 16: Opener - Mrs. Maud Nash, followed by a talk by a Doctor.

April 23: Opened by the members, followed by a competition "Best Hat Creation"

April 30: Opened by Mrs. C. Hey, followed by a General Knowledge Quiz.

So don't forget your aches pains and come along in a fancy hat.

COMMITTED EFFORTS

The efforts committee have been hard at it planning activities from now to the end of the year. The first effort will be:

FAMILY SOCIAL & CHILDREN'S FANCY DRESS

on Saturday, 19th April * 7.0- 9.30 pm.
Admission: 10p each -Adults & children
Refreshments available at moderate charges
Young Mums - Bring your children! Prizes!
Two Classes..Under 7 yrs... 7-14 yrs.

Other items include:

For the energetic.....
..... A SPONSORED WALK.....May 31st

For those who like dancing.....
..... MIDSUMMER REVELS.....June 14th

Wat for further details!

C.W.M. A.G.M.

The World Mission Committee at St. Stephen's held their annual meeting on the 13th March, when it was reported that during the year end 31st December, £95.56 had been raised towards our contribution of £167.80 to the U.R.C. Unified Appeal.

BOXES..... We found that opening Missionary Boxes in May and October had proved a success and would remind you all that the boxes will be received on May 4th.

COFFEE.....We are holding a coffee morning & evening on April 24th at the home of Mr. & Mrs. Emmott, 25 Heaton St., which you are invited to support. Open house: 10.0 - 11.30 am. & 7.0 - 9.0 pm. Admission to either session 10p. There will be a Bring & Buy Stall which will include home made produce, so if you feel like making a few cakes, etc., they will be most welcome.

Looking into the future, here are some events we hope to arrange throughout the year:-

June 6th - A BARBECUE is to be held at 14 Heaton St., which we hope will appeal to all age groups. Even if you don't like sausages, I'm sure we'll find something tasty for you. More about this in next month's issue.

Sept. 16th - COFFEE EVENING at 24 Ladyhouse Close.

Oct. 7th - A MISSIONARY EVENING run in conjunction with the Women's Guild.

USED STAMPS - A collection has been started for these, for which there is a box in the church porch. They will be sent periodically to the Overseas Missions Stamp bureau, who report that £1450 (the total amount raised in 1973/4) has been reached in the first 8 months of this current year. So, if you know anyone who works in a busy office, please ask them to save all envelopes with stamps, particularly those from overseas, as they bring in more money than British stamps.
Note: Please leave a margin round the stamp.

UNHOLY RUSH

There were so many items on the agenda at the March meeting of the Ladies Guild that it was 8.30 before our guest speaker was able to begin his contribution. Mr. Walter Armitage gave us an illustrated and often humorous talk on the Holy Land. His slides recalled several well known Bible stories, for they were taken at spots where great incidents had taken place two thousand years ago. The talk ended with a picture of the tomb where Mr. Armitage is almost sure the body of Christ lay. As one looked at this, one could envisage the scene of the empty tomb that Mary saw on that first Easter Day.

Unfortunately, time was very much our enemy on this occasion and after the talk it was decided not to have our usual cup of tea as some of our ladies were anxious to get home for their beauty sleep.

SHEEP WITH THEIR LITTLE LAMBS

Reports in the national press and on Radio Manchester bring us the news that Rev. Glyn Jenkins has taken on the task of being a Children's Crossing Patrolman. The story will bring a smile to many a face as they try to imagine the intrepid genleman going about his task. One can see the children of Dursley looking up at his 6 ft 3 in. (sorry 2 metres) of height and down at his size 11s. One can see motorists checking their Rev. Counters and ratepayers up in arms at the extra yards of cloth purchased to make his larger than average white coat.

Still we all have our crosses to bear, even if for some of us the cross is a giant lollypop. And when all is said and done, in the Christian experience a minister doing a worthwhile but humble task on a Goucestershire road is of minor significance compared with the major events on the roads to Jericho, Emmaus and Damascus.

A QUESTION OF FAITH

A contributor to this month's "Messenger" has sent us these verses:

I heard the voice of Jesus say,
"Come unto me, my child today,
Give me your body, mind and soul,
Yield everything to my control".

I'm glad I listened to His voice,
For 'twas my life's most glorious choice,
Now I am His and He is mine,
With constant fellowship divine.

The contributor then goes on to say:

"Reading these words, which were sung so beautifully during our Women's World Day of Prayer services, one is reminded that we should indeed give ourselves to our Lord and Master for in Him we can rest, find peace, also find strength for the facing of every day".

Implicit in this contribution is the assumption that the Christian life is a form of surrender in which the individual gives himself to God. This is a common feature of certain strands of Christian thought and is commendable for it humility. On the other hand there are many of us who find such an attitude disturbing. Just how does one give oneself to God? Presumably by doing his will. But how does one recognise the will of God? Simply because one does. But some of the most evil actions perpetrated have been committed by men who believed themselves to be divinely inspired.

An opposite school of thought to the "surrender" image is that Christians have to live from day to day choosing between hard right and easy wrong. Though our judgements are often at fault the responsibility is ours; we are answerable to God who delegated to us the task of living our lives by His standards, but our will.

What do you think?

BUSINESS AS USUAL

After being very quiet in the hive for some time the Busy Bees swarmed in March and have arranged to hold a.....

FASHION FARTY - on April 8th
and a
COOKERY DEMONSTRATION - on May 13th

Proceeds will be for church funds and we hope you will support both these efforts.
Tickets are now on sale from members of the BBs Price 10p. Buy one and you wont be stung!

DID YOU ENJOY.....
.....the Family Church Social held on March 15th? If you missed it we will tell you that we had Whist, Beetle, Dancing, an Easter Bonnet Parade and Eats of course. We made £15.45 profit for church funds and we urge you not to miss the next one.

SPONCER SPENCE
With a little more money still to come in we have already raised £47.73 on the Women's Guild Knit-In. Thank you sponsors and stitchers.

JUNIOR CHURCH ANNIVERSARY
Sunday 27th April

Preacher: Rev. A. NASH B.A.
Organist: Mr. A. CLEGG

10.30 am: "Praise for created things, Witness before a King"

6.00 pm: Service of Praise

A THOUGHT.....The only criticism which hurts is that which we deserve.

THEY NEED HELP

Once again April is with us and so is the annual collection for the National Children's Home. Why not help to distribute and collect the envelopes? Enjoy a tour of the delights of Littleborough as we cover Halifax Road to Durn; West View; Ealees, Saxon House; Victoria Street from Todmorden Road to Harehill Road and streets off; Todmorden Road to Gale and streets off; Sale Street; Sutcliffe Street; Townhouse Road; Bare Hill and streets off; Newall Street and streets off; Dearden Street; Ferrand Road; Milford Crescent .....Phew!

This is too much work for four volunteers. Contact Mrs. K. Hill if you can help out.

SO DO WE!

We still have no caretaker. A list of duties has therefore been placed on the notice board in the schoolroom and if you are able to do a job, however small, you are asked to tick it off on the appropriate day when completed. A school key is available from Mr. F. Beattie, 32 Todmorden Road. Your help will be much appreciated.

GRATITUDE FOR REMEMBERANCE

Mrs. Constance E. Hoyle has asked us to insert the following message:

"Thank you all very much for lovely cards, flowers and gifts on my 80th birthday. A great achievement. Thanks be to God."

Thank you, Mrs. Hoyle. You prompt us to quote a good old Chinese proverd;

"It is not how old you are, but how you are old which matters"

CONGRATULATIONS.....

...and best wishes to Mr. & Mrs. C. Binns of 17 Division Street, Rochdale. They celebrate their Golden Wedding on the 12th April.

THANKS.... to Mr. & Mrs. Vincent for conducting our Easter Sunday Morning Service.

CHURCH DUTIES - LITTLEBOROUGH

DOOR STEWARDS

April 6th	Mrs. Crossley	Mr. E. Holt	
13th	Mr. J. Hill	Mr. J. Lord	
20th	Mr. J. Nairn	Mr. F. Beattie	
27th	Mr. H.N. Hill	Mr. J. Holt	10.30
	Mr. J. Lord	Mr. J. Nairn	6.00
May 4th	Mrs. Crossley	Mr. F. Beattie	

ORGANIST/PIANIST

April 6th	Mrs. E. Cockcroft	am.
13th	Miss L. Merrick	am.
20th	Mrs. M. Hill	am.
27th	Mr. A. Clegg	am. & pm.

COFFEE ROTA

April 6th	L. Kelsall		S. Moss
13th	B. Holt		A. Merrick
20th	P. Lightfoot		D. Mallinson
27th	A. Wall	P. Wall	J. Simpson
May 4th	W. Law		J. Law

Persons unable to take their appointments as listed are expected to find a suitable substitute.

FAMILY CHURCH READINGS

April 6th	"Anything done for my brothers" Matthe 25: 31-46	M.G. Hill
13th	"Wonders of the deep" Psalm 107: 23-32	H. Vincent
20th	"I know my misdeeds" Psalm 51: 1-9	K. Hill
27th	"A thankful heart" Psalm 105: 1-7	-
May 4th		M. Law

CHURCH DUTIES - MILNROW

FAMILY CHURCH DOOR STEWARDS

April 6th	Mr. H. Mellor	Mrs. F. Butterworth
13th	Mr. D. Fursey	Mrs. J. Duffy
20th	Mr. J. Harrison	Counc. I. Royle
27th	Mr. J. Collins	Mrs. A. Collins
May 4th	Mr. F. Rae	Mrs. P. Royle

ELDERS ROTA EVENING DOOR STEWARDS	DUTY ELDER	ORGANIST/PIANIST EVENING WORSHIP
April		
6th Mr. J. Wild	Mr. R. Gillon	Mr. D. Logan
13th Mr. B. Clough	Mrs. M. Howarth	Mrs. C. Hey
20th Mr. K. Hey	Miss M. Wood	Mrs. E. Starkie
27th Mrs. E. Gillon	Mr. J. Wild	Mr. J. Emmott
May 4 Mrs. N. Settle	Mrs. E. Gillon	Mr. D. Logan

COMMUNION ROTA

April 6th	Mr. K. Hey	Mrs. M. Howarth
May 4th	Mr. R. Gillon	Mrs. E. Gillon

FAMILY CHURCH COFFEE ROTA

April 6th	Mrs. H. Whitehead	Mrs. Greenhalgh
13th	Mrs. E. Garside	Mrs. J. Calow
20th	Mrs. C. Hey	Mrs. M. Mellor
27th	Mrs. J. Munday	Mrs. M. Ogden
May 4th	Mrs. J. Cudworth	Mrs. N. Settle

Persons unable to take their appointments as listed are expected to find a suitable substitute.

OFFERTORIES

	Cash			
	am.	pm.	Envelopes	Total
Feb. 2nd	8.20	2.32	16.17	26.69
9th	5.87	1.47	15.52	22.86
16th	6.05	1.91	14.96	22.92
23rd	4.86	1.17	20.26	26.29
	£24.98	£6.87	£66.91	£98.76

MINISTER:

Rev. A.V.J. Nash B.A.,
The Manse,
196 Harbour Lane,
Milnrow.
Tel: ROCHDALE 50161

*

CHURCH SECRETARIES:

MILNROW

Mr. Allan Roberts,
54 Beechfield Road,
Milnrow.
Tel: ROCHDALE 42243

LITTLEBOROUGH

Mr. F.G. Simpson,
121 Calderbrook Road,
Littleborough.
Tel: 061 834 4402
(Business)

*

MESSENGER EDITOR:

Mr. Ian Royle B.Sc. (Econ),
24 Ladyhouse Close,
Milnrow.
Tel: ROCHDALE 41916

*

HOSPITAL VISITORS:

MILNROW:

Miss M. Wood
Mrs. A. Wood
Mrs. E. Starkie
Miss A. Memory
Mrs. N. Settle